



151 Carr Ave.- Newington, Ct. 06111 - Voice 860-667-0664 - Fax 860-667-2351

HOME MAKER
& COMPANION
SERVICES
FOR THE
ELDERLY

February 23, 2010

To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Maria M. Garrido-Cauley, I am the Human Resources Manager at Rainbow Home Services, LLC. a Homemaker-Companion Agency for Elderly in Newington, Connecticut. I am writing to voice my opposition to SB-63, which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave.

These are very difficult times for our business. Insurance rates have increase as much as 19% in the last year; minimum wage was raised by 3.125% as of January 1, 2010 and Bill HB 7005 requiring participants of the Home Care Program for Elders to pay 15% of the cost of their services, has resulted in a considerable amount of clients dropping out of the program with the subsequent reduction in income.

As a provider for the Home Care Program for Elders, we are being reimbursed at very low rates, which last increase of 2.9% took place 3 years ago. In the meantime minimum wages were up by 7.28% and the cost of living increased by 8.5%. The approval of bill SB-63 under the current economic circumstances would only further increase the cost of doing business in the State of Connecticut. Furthermore it will result in no pay raises, discontinuance of benefits, such as medical insurance and bonuses and may even increase the unemployment rate as we will be forced to freeze hiring and may have to discontinue current positions.

We urge you to reject this proposal and work with the business community to control labor and workplace costs in Connecticut. Thank you.

Maria M. Garrido-Cauley
Rainbow Home Services, LLC